

Tel.
Ambleside
2168

The Charlotte Mason College,
Ambleside,
Westmorland.

item 316

21st June, 1956

Dear

The Council of the Charlotte Mason Foundation have asked me to convey to you with very great regret the decision which has been forced upon them to raise the College fees next term owing to the greatly increased cost of living and the considerable rise in the Burnham Scale of lecturers' salaries which latter is to take effect from October 1st of this year.

The new fees will be £70. per term.

The Council is aware, of course, that it is usual to give a term's notification of increase in fees but you will have seen in the press that the announcement of the proposed steep rise in the scale of salaries has been made since Easter. It has consequently been impossible to give the customary notification.

In a case of real hardship (of which proof should be offered) the Council would be prepared to remit a portion of the increase. The situation could also be reviewed in the light of the possibility of a loan from one of the Loan Funds which exist for the purpose of helping girls to be trained for a career.

May I point out to you that although an increase of fees is now necessary, the financial position of your daughter, when she is qualified, will be greatly strengthened by the increase in the Burnham Scale of salaries. What is lost now will very quickly be regained.

I would like to add that I share the deep regret of the Council in having to make this increase.

Yours sincerely,

MARY HARDCASTLE

Principal

Tel.
AMBLESIDE
2168

The Charlotte Mason College,
Ambleside,
Westmorland.

isplcmc 316

MH/JMV.

18th September, 1957.

Dear

I am enclosing a copy of the Ministry's Report which no doubt you would like to consider before the meeting on Monday next.

There are two main considerations, the first is finance and the other is staffing. Under these headings there is much detail to be considered and I am enclosing a draft copy of the balance sheet.

As you will see we are in quite a good position at the moment as we are feeling the advantage of the raising of the fees in September, 1956. I am afraid that the current year will not be so good, in fact the finances do not promise to be at all easy. We have to take three students less because of accommodation. You may remember that last year we fitted in seven more students in order to adjust the numbers in the years as there had been only eight third year students the year before. We were able to do this because of the additional accommodation in the Greenbank Cottages but we were over-full.

This year we are taking three less students and would have taken even fewer but for two reasons, one being that I had a communication from the Ministry asking me to squeeze in as many students as I could! Secondly the Fairfield numbers will be very much down. This is due to a number of reasons, instead of £21,406 the fees for the past year, we only expect to receive something like ~~£20,667~~ this coming year. The position may improve during the year but nevertheless it is a serious thing. We have unfortunately lost three children through the incident at Hill Top last term and also we had a large number of girls due to leave from our top form. Last Christmas we had no less than five girls on the waiting list for Hill Top and the parents had to send them elsewhere. The numbers do fluctuate from time to time.

Expenses are going up all the time. The new postage rates

will make a great deal of difference to the P.U.S. and to us. The National Health contribution rates have gone up and the new Laboratory will cost all that much more. Inflation particularly hits an independent institution.

Staffing is a major problem. Full employment means it is exceedingly difficult to get staff. We advertised three times for a graduate teacher for the School on Full Burnham Scale salary and we had one answer. The supply of local women for our household needs is more difficult to get owing to the fact that a small factory has been established in Ambleside. The question of the payment of staff is also a major one. Last year the Education Lecturer was doing a course in Manchester which meant she could not give us much time and that fell rather heavily on me. All this will need our careful attention.

Nevertheless we have a full College with some good students and the community is thriving in all the important ways. The Report deals very fully with the accommodation and I need say nothing more about that here.

I will try to draw up a simple form of agenda which will cover all these points.

Yours sincerely,

Principal.

Mrs.H.C. Walton,
"Galleons",
Higher Lane,
MUMBLES, Swansea.

Tel.
Ambleside
2168

The Charlotte Mason College,
Ambleside,
Westmorland.

FEE LETTER

13 emc316

20th February, 1958.

Dear

It is with much regret that the Council of the Charlotte Mason Foundation feel obliged to raise the College fees to £258. per annum (£86. per term) from September, 1958.

It is not only because salaries are going up with the additions towards equal pay, but in order to meet the Ministry of Education requirements we have had to embark on certain improvements which have involved both capital expenditure and additions to the running expenses of the College.

It is a matter of concern to the College that we have to make this addition to our finances in order to make both ends meet. We are sure you will appreciate however that even with this increase the fees are very low compared with other Colleges, and those students who are receiving financial help from their Local Authority should receive additional aid from that source. The sum of £86. per term is divided equally into £43. board fees and £43. tuition fees.

Yours sincerely,

Note:- copy put in Burnett's file - (1st File in Cabinet)

Copy for M.H.

24 plome 3/6
March 22nd
(1958)

Dear Miss Livingstone

You will remember that when you sent me, in January, your resignation from the Head-mistress-ship of the Practising School (senior department), I acknowledged your letter at once, unofficially, & told you I would put it before the next meeting of the Charlotte Mason Foundation.

That meeting was last Wed. March 20th when your letter of resignation was read to the members of the Foundation.

I am now writing officially and on behalf of the Foundation to say that we accept your resignation in three ways. We accept it with regret that you feel the time has come that you should leave us; we accept

24p2eme316
it with much gratitude for all
the years you have given us
for the splendid work you have
done; and we accept it wishing
you happiness and success
in all your future work.

I am sorry you should have
had to wait so long for the
official reply to your letter, but
I expect you know that, at the
moment, the Charlotte Mason
Foundation normally meets
only twice a year.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely,

Geraldine Walton

Chairman

Charlotte Mason Foundation

MH/ST.

PERSONAL

17th May, 1958.

A. E. Miles Davies, Esq., C.B.,
Ministry of Education,
Teachers' Branch,
36-38 Berkeley Square,
London, W.1.

Dear Mr. Miles Davies,

The Governing Body of this College is giving serious consideration to the future of the College and it is very necessary that this should be done in view of the compulsory three year course which we hope will be implemented in 1960. Mrs. Walton, the Chairman of the Governing Body would much appreciate it if you were able to grant us a personal interview. There are a number of problems which face us and as a sub-committee of the Governing Body is meeting in early July to consider these points, it is important that we should have some contact with the Ministry before then.

We hesitate to make the following suggestion as it is such short notice but it so happens that both Mrs. Walton and I have to be in London this next week and we wonder if by any chance it would be possible to have an appointment sometime on either Wednesday May 21st or Thursday May 22nd before 4 p.m. We will make any time possible but if there is any chance, Wednesday morning is not quite so convenient.

We realise, of course, that this suggestion is probably quite impossible but we venture to make it as we both live so far from London. We would have written before but I have only just heard from Miss H.C. Rankin H.M.I. that you are the person we should approach.

I will ring up on Monday afternoon to ask your secretary if there is any possibility of an arrangement being made. If not, we must hope for an appointment later on.

Yours sincerely,

Principal

Confidential

26ptmc316
Ge W Rankin

May 23rd 1958

Dear Mr Rankin.

You will probably have heard from Mr Handcastle that we flew to his Ministry to see Mr Gloman on Wednesday last.

We were very disappointed not to be able to see Mr Gloman who had granted us an appointment, instead of Mr Miles Davies, whom we were told, was away ill.

We saw Mr Ben Lofthouse with Mr Gaylin. They were very kind & frank, put our situation as

to the future of the College before their
 laid however feel that both parties
 were rather at a disadvantage
 because they had told us when we
 arrived that Mr. Gluman was with
 his Secretary would join us "in
 a few minutes". After waiting - for
 an hour & a half - that he would
 appear at any moment, we had
 to leave without seeing him at all.
 I appreciate that this situation was
 just as difficult for Mr. Bell &
 Mr. Gaylor - as for us!

Though our conversation may
 have served to clear some
 I mind ~~and then~~ (next p.)

It may be a useful preliminary, I frankly do not feel that Mrs. Bell had much sympathy for what the College is trying to do, or any understanding of her contribution we are still able to make to Education as a whole. Indeed, I could not help wondering if she had ever heard of Charlotte Mason or knew anything of her philosophy!

We felt they were hearing, & to be fair, they probably couldn't do anything else in her circumstances, & for this reason we were disappointed not to see someone in higher authority. I felt we were well meaning regarded as something, ~~but~~ a little

precious — a closed community, almost! — who had no knowledge of his outside world or its present day requirements, which, as I am sure you will agree, is not a true picture of our situation. I trust no final decision will result from this interview & that we may perhaps be given another opportunity for seeing Mr Miles' bores.

I gather that you are shortly going to Cambridge & I should be so grateful if you would have a talk with Miss Handcock about this.

I have looked out your last letter to me, written after our meeting in London, & am sending this

to his address & gave me then.
It looks horrible, like a private
address. If it is, I hope you
will forgive this intrusion on
your time & privacy.

I hope you are well & that
we may have an opportunity
of meeting again.

Yours sincerely,

Geraldine Walter

P.S. I should add that we did realise
from his conversation that his
position is not a hopeful one as
his tendency seems to be to favour
layer & layer concept units.
m.g.w.

17plome316

(1)

P.S. Harty
Wicks for
you
when
I
will
find
her
when
we
arrive
Cambridge.

Wed: 4th June. 1958.

Barling Handy.

Well - we do see
life! I had more than an hour
with Miss Skillicorn at Homebin
this morning. She presented me
with the enclosed literature
which you may like to see.
No hurry for its return - I'll get
it in July when I come. The
literature answers many of your
questions, & we can discuss more
when I come because I've no time
to write a full report which could
fill pages & pages & you won't want
to read it! When I left at 11.45
Conkney took me straight into
his train when I got a check for

pad & a large envelope.

Miss S. is a framed old girl — a great character I should think, one one could have been kinder more friendly & forthcoming.

The only point on which I drew a complete blank was the new 3rd year course. Suddenly I asked about it she said "Secret negotiations were going on within the University & ~~that~~ I couldn't tell you really what the result will be" I noticed she had gone a deep flush madly (the old for "time of life") so I gathered she felt she had already said too much & I changed the subject.

The whole set up is quite fantastic — the realisation of all his dreams in every way.

(2-)

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e.g. Mrs W. timidly, feeling her way while balancing an egg-shell china coffee cup of rare design, "How lovely - your pyrethrums are" Mrs S. kindly surveyed a vast expanse of py arrangement of same, "Oh yes we have a whole field of them & flowers for decorations round the rooms"! Mrs W. casting envious eyes on acres & acres of close-crop velvety lawns. Mrs S. interpreting his look, "Yes we have a very clever head gardener. She is quite a young woman for S - agricultural college & she has 6 men under her whom she manages - just like that" - a modest flaking up gesture. (A good thing I was by myself - otherwise I should have been

probably caught your eye & puzzled.
 She has invited me to go again
 next time I'm here to see more
 & especially her green houses & any
 thing else. In appearance she's
 rather like a benevolent old
 to look at - short & sturdy, with
 large bespectacled eyes & veranda
 teeth & you'd think definitely
 elderly, but she moves very
 fast when showing & round
 formed it quite hard work to keep
 up. But I liked her so much
 & she has a nice sense of
 humor & appreciates a mild dig.
 I should think she's very shrewd
 indeed. Her remarks about how
 her "students" would be at all
 next week at the May Ball
 showed she was under no delusions.

(3.)

i7p5ome316

Now for some hard facts.

They are over 300 students.

They can take their pick - think she said it was something like 1 in 10 ^{of the} applicants.

Those who come have an ~~2~~ - generally 3 subjects at A-level & have had 2 years in VI form. They have complete freedom for h.e.a.s.

The grant for Min. of Ed. is per capita for tuition & maintenance assessed on family income.

She ranges from Lord Cranbrook's daughters to "some are living with an old granmie" - grant accordingly.

Roughly it works out that 1 in 10 students share a study bedroom. There is a large house

over his way - ordinary residential
 house where his rooms are large
 & they share. ^{in 1st year} in Hammerlin still
 / which was built as Cavendish
 College for men with an his small
 single bedrooms already for him)
 his students each have a single
 bedroom - his bookcase & writing
 desk with drawers are on platform.
 Each room has radiator & down
 bed, easy chair ^{desk chair} & food locker in
 cupboard. Bathrooms are on
 opp. side of corridor with shower
 rooms & basin rooms - (2 students
 to a basin!) Ironing rooms,
 drying & drying rooms (1 each one
 of each, lavatories abound!
 She says (what we feel) that
 this of 8th rooms. are a policy
 of perfection this great thing is to

(4)

17p7mc3/6

show willing & do what you can!
e.g. Mun. of Ed. want them to spend
£150,000 on a new science block
they have no intention of doing so!
so it looks rather like "the more you
do - the more you may do!"

The trustees meet once a month
- a financial committee - & he
showed me last month's accounts.
They turn over at roughly £100,000^{p.a.}
a month. I didn't have time to
take in every thing ^{of a sheet} & she was
not going to allow me a close
perusal, naturally, but what filed
me with envy in the credit side
was his long list of stocks &
shares & holdings in various
Companies of reputed wealth!

The students are pretty free-
 friends allowed in the
 gorgeously appointed common rooms.
 They are allowed in till 10:30 p-
 mly night - after that special
 events within reason, & out
 at night in May week - see
 above. For freedom of choice in
 subjects & courses see literature.
 I've got down in my pencil notes
 that ^{full} fees are £300 per. an. but
 this doesn't seem to be up
 with the prospect, but I've not
 ready it things very carefully,
 & am a bit muzzy after a long
 afternoon in the sun watching
 the May Races. Incidentally I
 ran into Sheila Barwell (McVain)
 on billion corner but we only had

(5)

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time for a short chat as we had
to get back & change for a party.
So nice to see her, she was so
friendly - had her father & 3 older
children with her.

Incidentally Miss S. told me if
you want to build you have to
cost for \$1000 per place. i.e. a
new block to house 50 students
is roughly \$50,000. Nice thing.
Father for books & people who
dined with etc. the last few
nights, that Homer Lin is principally
with Lin of & son after, &
they all seemed to have met
known Miss S. who is on all
kinds of things. They have one
of the best collections of modern

pictures in Camb. & Miss S. told
 me she had bought a new one
 only yesterday. The students were
 doing exams so I only saw a few
 & thought they looked so nice. She
 tells me they are a wealthy college
 & I think it was between £1 & 2,000
 spent on new books for their library
 every year! She has no staffing
 difficulties on her Academic side -
 Pelham of course but according to
 her, people clamour to come! The
 chef has been there for ages
 & of course they have periodic
 difficulties with domestic staff
 because with an old college
 needing them - well you can
 imagine the competition.

She did say one very interesting

(6.)

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source of income was what she
called "on furnishing home business"
which she said was an entirely
to being in Cambridge & people
always holding conference every
vac.

I quite see why Miss B. G. Hingst
we ought to see Homenlin!!! As far
as we (Cambridge) go it's quite the
least helpful one because obviously,
there is no struggle anywhere.
Their high standard of maintenance
& conditions - I won't bore you with
descriptions of their lecture room
equipment etc. the spaciousness
& entire set-up proclaims
wealth & favour & no worries
at all. In some ways I came away,

27p/2amc316

little, depressed — it was all too perfect & ideal. But she was so friendly & nice & I feel I really shall go back & see her blooming glass houses. I was very careful in what I said about her us, & she did most of his talking & was obviously pleased to be able to show us such a good show. But she did imply that his kind of Ed. would want every teacher they could lay hands on for many years yet, & again I felt if only we can weather his next 2 yrs for some money some how, with some things in the end.

I wouldn't have minded it for worlds but I don't think I'm doing any good! Hope this isn't too long boring. Much love Ge.



VINCENT KNOWLES, M.A.
Registrar

VK/MH

FROM

THE REGISTRAR,
THE UNIVERSITY,
MANCHESTER, 13

Telephone: ARDwick 3333

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

June 19th, 1958.

Dear Miss Hardcastle,

You will have seen references in the press to the Ministry of Education's proposals for expanding training colleges and their request for speedy action. It seems to us in Manchester that now that this has been made public, it is time for the Charlotte Mason College to take appropriate action. Dr. Wiseman and I would suggest that the Governing Body should consider an immediate application to the Local Education Authority to see what the possibilities are of becoming grant-aided. This line of action, if I remember rightly, was the sort of thing the Ministry put before you on your visit to London. I know that Mrs. Walton and yourself have reservations and the Council may very well have them too, but I think the issue is so important that it ought to be raised without delay and the College might be prejudiced in any future negotiations if this were not done.

If this suggestion were to meet with the approval of the Governors and if - to consider the worst possibility - the L.E.A. refused to help, then I think the Ministry might well be approached again. In those circumstances, the Ministry would surely find it more difficult to refuse a request for voluntary status, which might mean the death sentence for one college whilst all others were given assistance.

Please regard this letter as very confidential though of course I should naturally wish you to show it to Mrs. Walton.

We perhaps ought to call a meeting of the Council at Ambleside on the date fixed for the Sub-committee. The matter is so important, I feel, that it cannot brook delay.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Mary Hardcastle,
Principal,
Charlotte Mason College,
AMBLESIDE, Westmorland.

Vincent Knowles

19cmc316
COPY

From The Registrar
The University
Manchester
June 19th 1958

Personal and Confidential

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Yours sincerely

Vincent Kowles

Miss Mary Hardcastle,
Principal,
Charlotte Mason College,
Ambleside, Westmorland.

210plcmc316

GALLEONS,
HIGHER LANE,
MUMBLES, SWANSEA.
SWANSEA 68443.

June 22nd
1968.

Barling Hardy.

Here is a copy for you
of his letter I sent. I've put in all
your points & added a few of my
own. Also I made one or two alterations
e.g. bearing in mind the "very
confidential" nature of V.K.'s letter. I
put "it is obvious" instead of "I have
been told". In any case, it should
be obvious to any one with $\frac{1}{2}$ an eye!

I have sent one to V.K. & also
a covering letter thanking him for
his to you & me & for his help.
I had a very satisfactory chat to him

10p2cmc316

on his plane yesterday morning.
I think we are more than lucky that
he is who reps. Manchester on an
e.m.f. He is invaluable.

He also very much approves of your
having an "it" his record clear with
Mr. Clarke. I feel this is most important.

The first question every one will want
to ask is, what does it involve?

Conveyance is taking some of his
letters for me & I'm doing same
with carbon paper & we have to get
them on with him late afternoon
but today & hope most people will get
them tomorrow by 2nd post.

I wish you hadn't got to do a
memorandum on top of everything

else, but I do not think any one
else can do it. You are the only
person who knows the whole thing
from A-Z. But I am worried about
you & the ghastly burden you are
carrying with all this awful
uncertainty & the daily frustrations
& worries. I only wish I could do
more to help you. Please make
it as short as possible & try not
to burn too much oil! Taking a
general view, I honestly believe
the situation is more hopeful
than in March, but we have
a very tricky passage before us
& can't afford to put a foot wrong
now. I think this may well be the

210p4cmc316

final shower in the storm clouds
may clear considerably after this.
It's the uncertainty that is so
wearing for you too worrying.
But I think we can reasonably
hope that quite soon we'll either
know that we must close down,
or else we shall get some help.
& things will go on.

I am very inarticulate &
stupid, but I am concerned
for you in your present situation
& I think about you a great deal
trying to see how we can help.

Very much love Handysper
that too much und. - injur. it, if
in please. Ge

211cmc316

22 June 1958.

Galleons,
Higher Lane,
Mumbles,
Swansea.
Swansea 68443.

Dear Miss Hardcastle.

After a visit to the Ministry of Education last month, and having received strong representation from Manchester University, I am persuaded that it is right to call an Emergency Meeting of the Charlotte Mason Foundation in Ambleside at 10 a.m. on July 9th, when the sub-committee is due to meet there in any case.

The Ministry has now made public their proposals for expanding Teachers' Training at Colleges to meet the serious shortage of teachers which is expected during the next ten years or so. (Vide Sunday Times of 15 June, also other papers during this week).

The matter is extremely urgent as it is obvious that the College might be prejudiced in any future negotiations if we did not explore the situation now, and if possible take action. You will remember that at the last meeting I spoke of my anxiety as to the future of the College & as to how long we could continue without some form of financial help.

I am trying to discover in private conversations what it would involve if we approached the Local Education Authority. From the point of view of the student intake the matter is also very urgent as it is becoming increasingly difficult to find well qualified, or even reasonably qualified, students who are ready and willing to pay the fees. The staffing condition is also acute and especially with regard to the Practising School.

So much has happened since C.M.F. met in March that I feel it is most important that all our problems should be reviewed now, unhurriedly & on the spot. We cannot possibly afford to wait until our November meeting.

I have asked Miss Hardcastle to produce a memorandum, which will show you how urgent the situation has become, & upon which we can base our agenda.

I realise that this is short notice & that a journey to Ambleside may not be convenient, but we have reached a crucial point in the history of the College and School and the problems confronting us are ones which require the utmost help from every member of the Foundation. If it is impossible for you to come to the meeting, would you please be kind enough to send me your comments, preferably here by July 4th, or else to me at College by July 8th.

Yours sincerely,

Gertrude Waller.
(Theresa C.M.F.)